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COUNTRY: Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT: Russian Troops in Magdeburg

DATE OF  
INFORMATION:

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1. On 19 and 22 March 1951, the Encke Kaserne on Beimstrasse, Magdeburg (M 53/Y 60), was guarded by sentries who wore red-bordered black epaulets. There was no training activity. Motor vehicles observed in the billeting area [REDACTED]

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2. Gate guards at the Flak Kaserne on Zipkeleberweg wore artillery insignia. Jeep [REDACTED] and 13 driving school trucks left the installation, each carrying 4 to 6 student drivers, including officers.

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Other motor vehicles observed in the billeting area were [REDACTED]

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Troops practiced with four 85-mm AA guns and a large range finder near the barracks installation. No further details could be obtained because of the presence of military patrols. (2)

3. Most of the buildings of the Pionier Kaserne fronting on Turmschanzenstrasse, Charlottentor and Brueckenstrasse had been destroyed. One of the less damaged buildings housed a German municipal agency. A long barracks building fronting on Turmschanzenstrasse and another building on Brueckenstrasse, which was being reconstructed, quartered signal troops. The garages pertaining to the two buildings sheltered about 60 trucks. Motor vehicles being cleaned [REDACTED]

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4. The partly damaged buildings of the Nachrichten Kaserne on Jerichowerstrasse were being reconditioned. The installation has been occupied by troops since the end of 1950. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. Troops received basic rifle drill in the barracks yard. No heavy weapons were observed. [REDACTED]

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5. Gate guards at the Hindenburg Kaserne wore red-bordered black epaulets. Driving school trucks, parked in front of the installation, [redacted]

[redacted] About 30 groups of 10 to 12 soldiers each were engaged in rifle drill in the barracks yard. About 200 troops were engaged in combat practice at platoon level at the drill field opposite the barracks installation. (3)

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6. [redacted] the two installations quartered a total of 3,000 troops, including about 1,000 troops who arrived there in the fall of 1950. The troops allegedly belonged to artillery, AT artillery and tank units. At the beginning of March, 600 troops with 12 artillery pieces were said to have left the installations by road for Born. The following detailed observations were made:

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- a. Heerenkrug Kaserne on the north side of Breitscheidstrasse:

Four light and eight heavy AT guns were being cleaned in front of the gun sheds. [redacted]

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- b. Anger Kaserne on the south side of Breitscheidstrasse:

Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. A damaged barracks building was being reconditioned. Since shelter space for motor vehicles and heavy weapons was limited, the trucks of the installation were parked in the open. Squads of soldiers received rifle drill in the barracks yard. [redacted]

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7. A fifth gun of 37 mm caliber was being emplaced beside the four AA guns previously observed at the railroad bridge across the Elbe River. Crews of four or five soldiers were with each gun. (5)

[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) The traffic of motor vehicles belonging to numerous component units of the Hq Third Army supports the previous belief that the Hq Third Shock Army is located in the Encke Kaserne on Beimstrasse.
- (2) The AA gun drill and the motor vehicle [redacted] observed in the Flak Kaserne on Zipkeleberweg indicate that elements of the 3d Gds AAA Div may be located there. [redacted]
- (3) The Pionier Kaserne, the Nachrichten Kaserne and the Hindenburg Kaserne constitute one collective billeting area on both sides of Jerichowerstrasse. [redacted] the Pionier Kaserne is believed to quarter signal units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps or of the Third Shock Army and other unidentified units of the Third Shock Army, probably only a motor pool, as the billeting space in the installation is limited. Since only vehicles of the 19th Gds Mecz Div were observed at the Nachrichten Kaserne, it is fairly definitely believed that an infantry component of the 19th Gds Div is quartered there. The presence of driving school vehicles of the unidentified Gun Arty Brig, possibly the 44th and of headquarters units of the Third Shock Army vaguely indicates that the Hindenburg Kaserne quarters elements of this brigade and army headquarters units.

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